Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18739 081513Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------130673 081515Z /42
O 081507Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5281

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18739

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, SCUL, UR, US (WHITNEY, CRAIG; PIPER, HAROLD)
SUBJECT; CORRESPONDENTS CASE

REF: STATE 198375

1. I MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO AFTER NOON OF AUGUST 8 AND PRESENTED OUR POSITION ON PUTTING THE "SLANDER" CASES BEHIND US, PER REFTEL.

2. KORNIYENKO RESPONDED THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TWO CASES, BUT WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND GIVE US A REPORT. I GAVE HIM MY UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY--I.E. THAT BOTH PAPERS HAD PAID THE COURT COSTS, REFUSED AS A MATTER OF STRONG PRINCIPLE TO ISSUE A RETRACTION, AND HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THE FINE. HE THEN ATTEMPTED, IN FAMILIAR TERMS, TO JUSTIFY THE CASES AGAINST WHITNEY AND PIPER UNDER SOVIET LAW (NOTING THAT HE WAS TRAINED AS A LAWYER). KORNIYENKO INSISTED THAT THE CASES DID NOT INVOLVE ULTERIOR POLITICAL MOTIVES BUT SIMPLY STEMMED FROM "INSULTED" SOVIET CITIZENS EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS UNDER SOVIET LAW. IN DIS-
CUSSING THE MATTER OF THE FINES INVOLVED, HE SEEMED CERTAIN THAT THE COURT COULD NOT IMPOSE MORE THAN A
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GRAND TOTAL OF 300 RUBLES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ITS ORDER TO PRINT A RETRACTION. HE SAID THE CHARGES COULD NOT BE "JUST DROPPED" UNLESS THE INJURED PARTIES DECIDED TO DO THIS.

4. I REITERATED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEWED THIS MATTER, AND THE CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT WE HAD

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SHOWN IN RESISTING STRONG PRESSURES FOR RETALIATION
AGAINST SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS. KORNIYENKO REPEATED HIS
UNDERTAKING TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS, MEETINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW18739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850070-1940
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 198375
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1805416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CORRESPONDENTS CASE
TAGS: CGEN, SCUL, UR, US, (WHITNEY, CRAIG), (PIPER, HAROLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c220467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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